

Please amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification:

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 10 with the following:

In heat exchangers, such as in particular charge-air coolers of this type, the tubes are usually fitted into openings in a tube plate and soldered in place in a fluid-tight manner. Each time that compressed air is applied, this soldered join or joint is subject to high mechanical loads on account of rapid pressure changes. In particular the narrow sides of flat tubes do not satisfy the increasing demands on strength, which can result in leaks in particular in regions of tube-plate joins or joints of this type which face the sides of the tube plate.